

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 10, 18 and 19 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data converter comprising:
a data conversion unit to encrypt and decrypt data;
a timer unit which counts time; and
a lock system which locks a data conversion function of said data conversion unit in a disabled state and prevents data encryption and decryption, based on the time counted by said timer unit.
2. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a lock release system which releases a lock on the data conversion function set by said lock system so that the data conversion function is set in an enabled state.
3. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 2, wherein said lock release system comprises:
a data input unit through which identification data is input;
a recording unit which records reference data for identification used to release the lock on the data conversion function; and
a control unit which collates the identification data input from said data input unit with the reference data for identification, and releases the lock on the data conversion function when the identification data is identical to the reference data for identification.
4. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data input unit is formed of entry keys by which numbers, letters, and signs are entered.
5. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data input unit is a plane coordinate input unit which is touched to allow input of data using coordinates of touched positions.

6. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data input unit is an input/display unit comprising:
 - a plane coordinate input panel which is transparent and is touched to allow input of data using coordinates of touched positions; and
 - a display which is provided on a rear side of said plane coordinate input panel to display numbers, letters, and signs.
7. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data input unit is a fingerprint input unit to which an image of a fingerprint of a user is input.
8. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 7, wherein:
 - said fingerprint input unit comprises a fingerprint input screen to which the finger of the user is applied to input the fingerprint of the finger, the fingerprint input screen being divided into pixels to measure static electricity of each of the pixels so that the image of the fingerprint is input.
9. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 7, wherein said fingerprint input unit comprises a fingerprint input screen to which the finger of the user is applied to input the fingerprint of the finger, and optically acquires the image of the fingerprint of the finger applied to the fingerprint input screen so that the image of the fingerprint is input.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The data converter as claimed in claim 2, wherein said lock release system comprises:
 - a recording unit which records reference data for identification used to release the lock on the data conversion function; and
 - a control unit which collates identification data which is input to and transmitted from a computer connected to the data converter with the reference data for identification, and releases the lock on the data conversion function when the identification data is identical to the reference data for identification.
11. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 10, wherein the computer includes an input unit through which the reference data for identification and the identification data are input.
12. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a time setting unit which sets a waiting time before the data conversion function is disabled.

13. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a time setting unit which sets a waiting time before the data conversion function is disabled.

14. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a display unit which displays whether said lock system is in operation.

15. (ORIGINAL) The data converter as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a display unit which displays whether said lock system is in operation.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CANCELED)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system which with a data leakage prevention function prevents data leakage, the computer system comprising:

the a data converter as claimed in claim 1 comprising

a data conversion unit to encrypt and decrypt data;

a timer unit which counts time; and

a lock system which locks a data conversion function of said data conversion unit in a disabled state and prevents data encryption and decryption, based on the time counted by said timer unit.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said data converter further comprises a lock release system which releases a lock on the data conversion function set by said lock system so that the data conversion function is set in an enabled state.